

THE USA FREEDOM CORPS' Network of Service

December 2004

USA Freedom Corps Launches Website Encouraging Youth to Volunteer



On December 8, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps Desiree T. Sayle, and Corporation for National and Community Service CEO David Eisner [launched a new website](http://www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov) designed to show elementary and middle school students how they can start making a difference by volunteering. The new website, www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov, includes resources, ideas, and information to help

parents and teachers engage America's youth in their communities. www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov features four sections: kids (elementary school), youth (middle school), parents, and teachers. The website offers a variety of resources, including volunteer ideas for kids and youth, online games to show how volunteering can be fun and rewarding, service stories from the President and Mrs. Bush, and links to other sites on volunteering designed for young people.



Americans Show Sustained Commitment to Volunteer Service

On December 16, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of [the U.S. Department of Labor](http://www.bls.gov) [announced that an increased number of Americans participated in volunteer service](http://www.bls.gov) during the 12-month period ending September 2004. Approximately 64.5 million people volunteered during the period, up from 63.8 million for the period ended September 2003, and up from 58.8 million for the period ended September 2002, the first year of the study. The percentage of the American population

who volunteered during 2004 remained at the same level as in 2003 at 28.8 percent.

These findings are from the volunteer service indicator, an annual national measurement of volunteer behavior developed in 2002 by the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics with the USA Freedom Corps and the Corporation for National and Community Service. [To view the Bureau of Labor Statistics' comprehensive data on volunteer service, click here.](http://www.bls.gov)

The President and Mrs. Bush Thank Volunteers for Their Service



President George W. Bush and Laura Bush visit [Operation USO CarePackage](http://www.operationusocarepackage.org) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, December 10, 2004. Photo by Paul Morse.

"I want to thank all the volunteers who are here. I want to thank your spirit.... I hope our troops understand that with this package comes a lot of support and a lot of affection from not only a husband or a wife, or a mom or a dad, but equally important, an average citizen who you never met, somebody who deeply appreciates your service, somebody who understands the mission, and somebody who stands solidly with you as you work to make the world a better place."

*President George W. Bush
in remarks during a USO volunteer event at
Fort Belvoir, Virginia, December 10, 2004*

Fire Corps Program is Launched



On December 9, [Fire Corps](http://www.firecorps.gov), a new program to support fire departments by encouraging Americans to serve in non-emergency roles, was launched in an event at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Fire Corps is a Program Partner of [Citizen Corps](http://www.citizen Corps.org), and coordinated nationally by the [National Volunteer Fire Council](http://www.nationalvolunteerfirecouncil.org). Through partnerships with fire service organizations and [local Citizen Corps Councils](http://www.localcitizen Corpscouncils.org) across the country, Fire Corps will involve citizens in public education, training, and volunteer efforts focused on fire prevention and safety.

Citizen Corps is President Bush's grass-roots effort to actively involve everyone in making communities across America safer, stronger, and better prepared for emergencies of all kinds. Citizen Corps is a vital component of USA Freedom Corps.

Study Reveals Positive Impacts of Service on AmeriCorps Members



On December 14, the [Corporation for National and Community Service](http://www.corporationfor national and community service.org) released the results of a five-year study on the long-term impact of the AmeriCorps program on its members at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The study finds that AmeriCorps alumni are more connected to their communities, more knowledgeable about problems facing their communities, and more likely to participate in community activities. [Click here for a copy of the report and other information.](http://www.cncs.gov)